REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 2 and 6. Claims 2 and 6 have been amended to overcome the rejections and further specify the embodiments of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claims. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 2 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as allegedly being anticipated by Honda et al. (US 6,493,466), hereinafter Honda.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the present-claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited reference. At first, Claims 2 and 6 have been amended to further specify the embodiments of the present invention. The amendment is supported by the disclosure of the specification, for example, Fig. 2. The bitstream receiver defined in the amended Claim 2 corresponds to the input terminal 2 and the demultiplexer 22 (page 11, line 4 to 16).

The embodiments of the present invention as amended is related to a bitstream conversion apparatus/method for converting an incoming first moving-picture bitstream at a first code transfer rate to a second moving-picture bitstream at a second code transfer rate different from the first code transfer rate. The incoming first moving-picture bitstream to be subjected to bitstream conversion has already been coded before being received by the claimed bitstream receiver. It has been obtained by coding first pictures set at a predetermined interval and used as reference pictures for inter-picture prediction of a moving picture to be coded and coding second pictures different from the first pictures.

It is respectfully submitted that the embodiment of the present invention as defined in the amended Claim 2 and 6 are different to the disclosure in Honda. Honga's image data subjected to compression is not a bitstream because it is not coded yet before supplied to the Honda's compression apparatus/method. The Examiner alleges that the claimed motion amount detector corresponds to the item 1706 and 1716 (1715?) in Fig. 17 of Honda. However, image data to be input to these items is not a bitstream (which is not coded yet) output from the storage device 602 (Fig. 6), or the video camera 701 (Fig. 7) or 801 (Fig. 8). The image data is compressed by and output from the Honda's compression apparatus, for example, along the communication line 604 or 703 (Figs. 6 or 7) at a certain transfer rate, which is a bitstream like the first moving –picture bitstream to be subjected to conversion defined in the amended Claims 2 and 6. However, there is no disclosure or teaching of conversion of the bitstream output from the Honda's compression apparatus at a certain transfer rate to another bitstream at another transfer rate.

The embodiment of the present invention as defined in the amended Claim 2 and 6 can be applied, for example, to such bitstream from the Honda's compression apparatus along the communication line 604 or 704 (Figs. 6 or 7) at a certain transfer rate to combine such a bitstream into another bitstream at another transfer rate. Honda's compression apparatus/method is used for compressing image data (not coded yet) into a bitstreamm at a certain rate. In contrast, the present invention according to the amended Claims 2 and 6 is used for converting such a bitstream that is already coded into another bitstream at a certain code transfer rate which may be a frame rate different from the frame rate of the bitstream of image data compressed by the Honda's compression apparatus/method.

In summary, the newly presented claims are not anticipated by Honda and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) is respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:

Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on June 21, 2001 including relevant documents. However, the Examiner has not recognized the reception and indicated the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement in the form of PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner recognize and indicates the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement in the form of PTO-1449. Enclosed please find a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 and stamped postcard for Examiner's reference.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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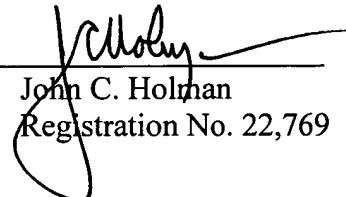
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